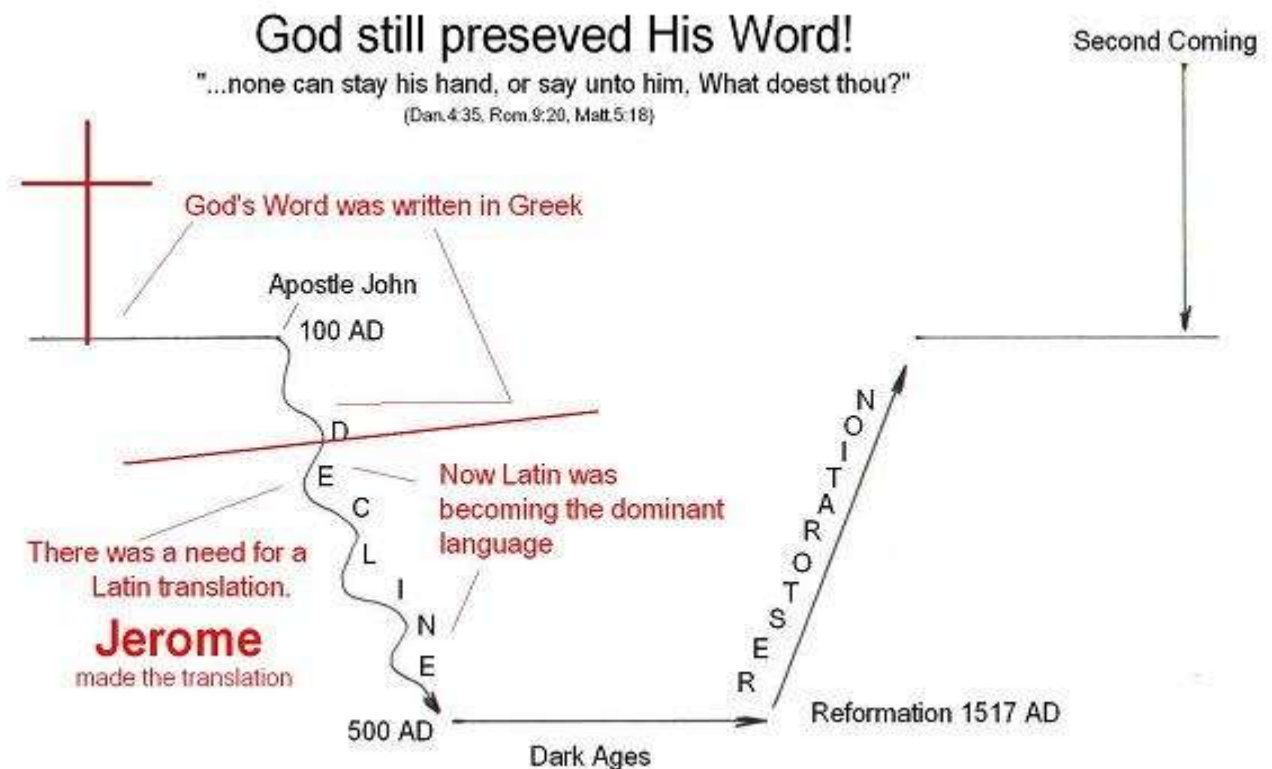


Jerome enters the arena of translating manuscripts

In 382 AD Pope Damasus (Saint) requested **Jerome** to undertake a **revision of the old Latin version**. Jerome complied with this request and thus produced the "**Latin Vulgate**," the official Bible of the Roman Catholic Church.



1. What was the "Old Latin Vulgate?"

The Old Latin Vulgate was known as the "Latin Vulgate" many years before the days of Jerome. (340-420 AD.)

It was translated from the "**received text**," also known later as the "**Textus Receptus**" and the Greek Vulgate (that which is popular) this text "prevailed in the Latin Church, previous to the introduction of the modern Vulgate of Jerome" In fact, this text is the text of the oldest Bible translation called the "Peshitta" (2nd.Century)

2. Who was Jerome?

Most learned of the early Church fathers of the Latin Church. He was Saint Jerome (or Eusebius Hieronymus)

340?-420? AD)

a. Place of Birth

Born in Strido, Dalmatia of a wealthy family.

b. Associations

In Aquileia (Italy) he was **linked with** an ascetic elite—including Rufinus, a writer and scholar, who translated in the 3rd-century. An Alexandrian **theologian as Origen was**.

c. He was accused of being a Ciceronian

a follower of the 1st. Century BC Roman philosopher—rather than a Christian.

e. Admired Origen's exegesis

Jerome spent almost three years (379–382 AD.) continuing his pursuit of scriptural studies. An enthusiastic disciple of Gregory of Nazianzus, Jerome also came to know Gregory of Nyssa and the theologian Amphilochius of Iconium at the Council of Constantinople (381). **Under such influences he improved his knowledge of Greek and developed an admiration for Origen's exegesis.** He translated of **Origen's** homilies (sermons) on Old Testament books into Latin. Here too he translated the church historian **Eusebius'**

Chronicon (Chronicles) and continued it to the year 378.

f. Jerome Translated

He Translated two sermons of **Origen** on the Song of Solomon

g. Revised Old Latin

More importantly, he revised the Old Latin version of the Gospels on the basis of the best Greek manuscripts at his command.

h. Jerome defended Mary as a perpetual virgin

He wrote a defense of the perpetual virginity of Mary, Jesus' mother (383)

j. Translated from Eusebius

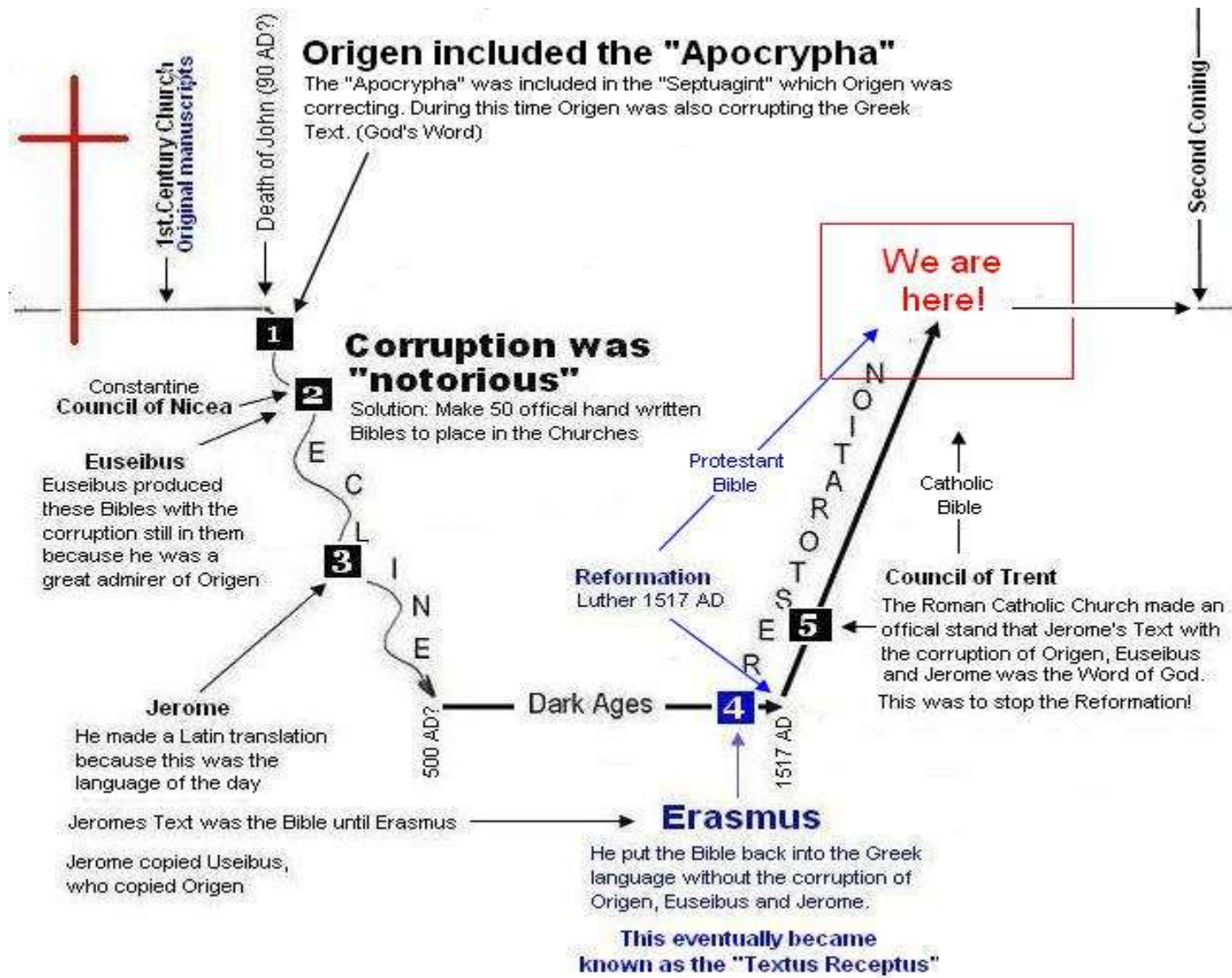
Jerome's biblical production in Bethlehem includes... **translation and adaptation of Eusebius'**

k. He used Origen's Hexapala

Revision of the Old Latin version of the Septuagint **based on Origen's Hexapala** (an edition with the Hebrew text in Hebrew and Greek characters, and four different Greek versions arranged in six parallel columns)

3. What did Jerome use to "revise" the Old Latin?

History reveals that Jerome's Revised Vulgate is largely **in agreement** with two manuscripts that **Eusebius** had compiled for Constantine, when he produced the fifty (50) official Bibles for the Church. These two manuscripts we know today as, the Codex **Sinaiticus and Vaticanus**.



"With the spread of Roman power Latin was carried to every part of the ancient world and became the **dominant tongue** of Western Europe.

Note: By 392 AD. Theodosius went even further when he outlawed heathen worship. It now came under penalty of death for anyone to have any religious connection other than that of the established Roman Church.

Those considered heathen as well as those considered to be heretical in their doctrine were openly persecuted.

What a complete turnabout of events! By 484 AD the cap stone to the whole Babylonish system became complete, and the Dark Ages was coming upon the Church. (The Dark Ages lasted a 1000 years)

Man failed, but God DID NOT!

"If we believe not, yet He abideth faithful: He cannot deny Himself...and none can stay His hand." (2Tim.2:13, Heb.6:16, Dan.4:35, Rom.9:20)

God remained sovereign and providential, "watching" over His Word to perform it. (Jer.1:12)

Now the Church is in the "Dark Ages"

The "dark ages" or the "middle ages" was a dark time in Church History. It was the "cap stone of the whole Babylonish system...the Jeroboam system was complete." (Note: 1Kings.10 -12) This was a false system of Worship and false House that was just like the real. "Christianity had now become the dominant religion of the Roman Empire early in the 4th.century and for the next 1000 years it dominated philosophy and tolerated little opposition."

1. The time of the dark ages

During the dark ages" very little translation was attempted...the **Word of God** was **locked up in the Latin tongue** which was unknown to the common people.

2. The Roman Catholic Church was the only Church

The "scriptures were used only to confirm what the fathers said, and if contradiction existed then the writings of the fathers were accepted above the authority of the scriptures."

3. God still preserved His Word

Even though God's Word had been corrupted and locked into the Latin language, God remained Sovereign and Providential and watched over His Word. (Jer.1:12, Psa.121:1-8, Dan.4:35, Rom.9:19-20) He showed "himself strong (2Chron.16:9, 1Peter.3:12) in the behalf of them whose heart (were) perfect toward Him."

a. **Nicholas Lyra** (1279-1340 AD.)

His work had profound influence on Martin Luther and helped "seed" the

Reformation that would happen in 1517 AD.

b. **John Wycliffe** (1330 -1384 AD.)

The "Morning Star of the Reformation" Wycliffe recognized scripture as the final authority, not the Catholic Church. He translated the Bible from Latin into English. Wycliffe "declared that **people had the right to read**

the Bible and interpret it for themselves." God blessed Wycliffe because this is exactly according to

the pattern. The people are the [Priesthood](#) and have responsibility to teach and interpret the Word of God. (Deut.17:18; 24:18; 31:9-11, 2Chron.15:3; 34:15, Neh.8:2, Mal.2:7, 1Peter.2:5-9, Rev.1-6; 5:10)

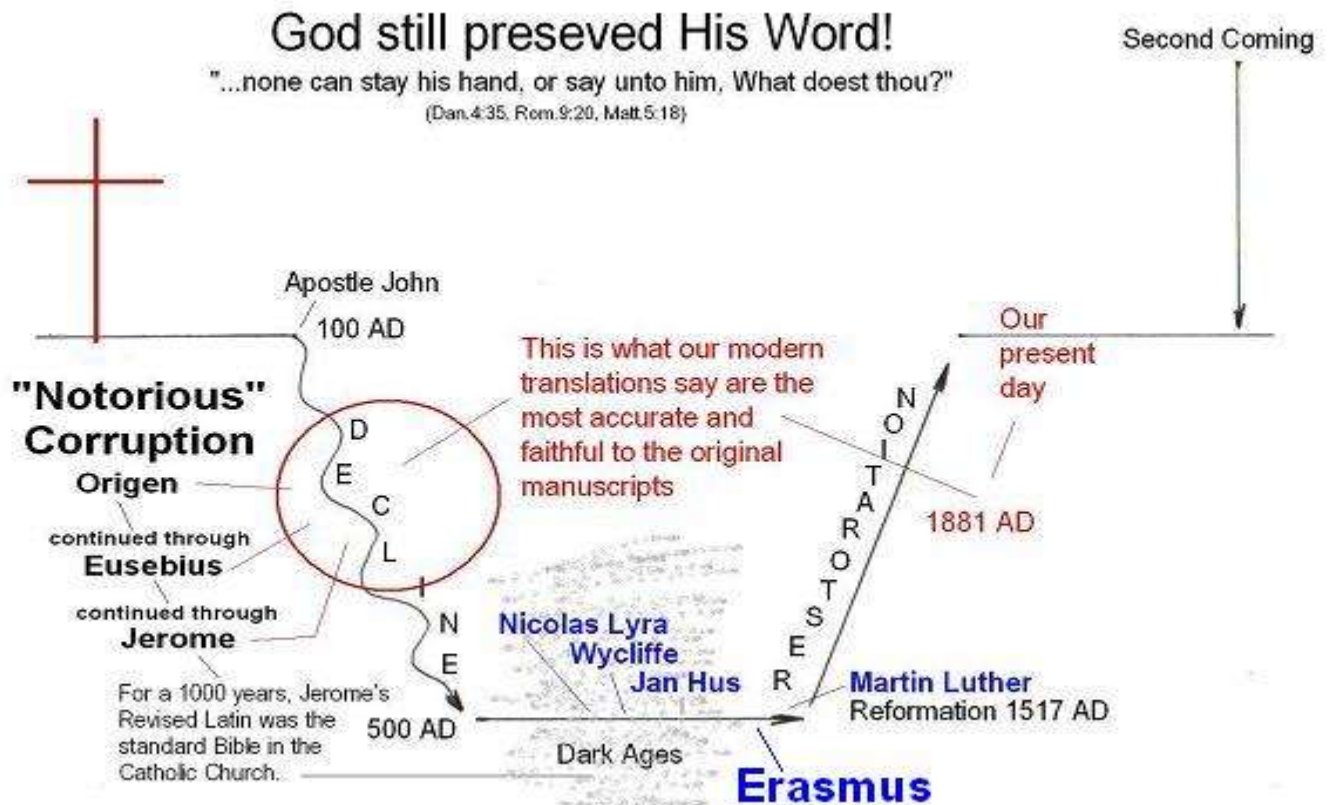
c. **Jan Hus**

He widely preached Wycliffe's ideas in powerful sermons and was burned at the stake by the Catholic Church.

d. **Martin Luther** (1483-1546 AD.)

Wycliffe and Hus greatly influenced Martin Luther and he "set up the Bible as the sole source of Christian truth."

"Luther's conviction concerning the role of the Church, the authority of the scriptures, and the needs of the unenlightened masses, motivated him to light **the torch of the Reformation.**"



Now Desiderius Erasmus places God's Word back into the Greek language, without the "notorious" corruption

God was about to restore the Church as He had foretold by the prophets, (Acts.3:18-25, Rev.10:7) therefore He Sovereignly and Providentially used Erasmus to put the Word of God back into the Greek language without the corruption. This work of Erasmus was absolutely vital to the foundation for the reform that was about to take place.

"In spite of his humanistic tendencies **Erasmus** was clearly **used of God to place the Greek New Testament in print, just as Martin Luther was used of God to bring in the Protestant Reformation**" "For in the very next year, in the plan of God, the Reformation was to break out in Wittenberg"

1. Who was Desiderius Erasmus?

a. His reputation

(1) Erasmus was a Scholar

The most **famous scholar** and **author** of his day

(2) Erasmus was a writer

One of the most **prolific writers** of all time.

(3) Respected Worldwide

There was no man in all Europe better prepared than Erasmus for the work of editing the **first** Greek New Testament text which became known as the "Textus Receptus".

b. Erasmus edited the works of Jerome

He translated, edited or annotated the works of the greatest names of the classical and patristic world. One of which was **Jerome!**

Note: Erasmus knew ALL about Jerome and his text and rejected them! He also knew about and published editions, "...the works of...Origen."

Modern scholars today say that Erasmus did not know about Origen, Jerome, Sinaiticus or Vaticanus when he placed the Word of God back into Greek. **Erasmus did know about Jerome's text and rejected it, because it was corrupt!**

2. What manuscripts did Erasmus use?

"It is **well known** also that Erasmus looked for manuscripts **everywhere** during his travels and that he borrowed them from everyone he could...Through his study of the writings of Jerome and other Church fathers, Erasmus became **very well informed** concerning the variant readings of the New Testament. (*i.e.* different from others of its kind, varying from the norm, standard, type)

a. **We have what Erasmus had**

Indeed almost **all** the **important variant readings known to scholars TODAY** were

already known to Erasmus more that 460 years ago..."

b. **What did Erasmus use**

(1) **Erasmus used a 11th.century** manuscript of the Gospels, Acts and Epistles

(2) **He used a 15th.century** manuscript of the Gospels

(3) **He used a 12th. - 14th.century** manuscript of Acts and the Epistles

(4) **He used a 15th.century manuscript** of Acts and the Epistles

(5) **He used a 12th.century manuscript** of Revelation

Note: This is used by modern day scholarship to say that Erasmus used "**late**" manuscripts. This is the foundation (root) of their footnotes that say, "Late manuscripts insert this verse." The reason Erasmus used these manuscripts from the 11th. To the 15th.century, is because the earlier manuscripts had been corrupted. Therefore it is misleading to say Erasmus had only late manuscripts at his disposal.

3. The first edition of the New Testament Text (1516 AD.)

This first addition of Erasmus was performed hastily and "was disfigured with a great number of typographical errors.

These miss prints however were soon eliminated by Erasmus himself." **Note:** This is the "root" of the modern day scholars who say that the King James is "marred" with mistakes.

Now God's Word is restored back into Greek

Erasmus did it without the corruption of Origen, Eusebius and Jerome. **Note the order of events that took place after Erasmus completed his work.**

1. The Printing Press was invented. (1450 AD)

This allowed the Bible to be put into the hands of the common people where it belonged. (The New Testament Priesthood 1Peter.2:5-9, Rev.1:6; 5:10) "**Religious**

texts, once read **ONLY** by scholars, nobility and educated priesthood were now available to an ever - widening audience."

2. The Reformation. (1517 AD)

God revealed to **Luther** that "the just shall live by faith," which has been called a **turning point in History**, separating the Church into Protestant and Catholic."

3. Tyndale translates the Greek Text of Erasmus into English. (1492-1536 AD)

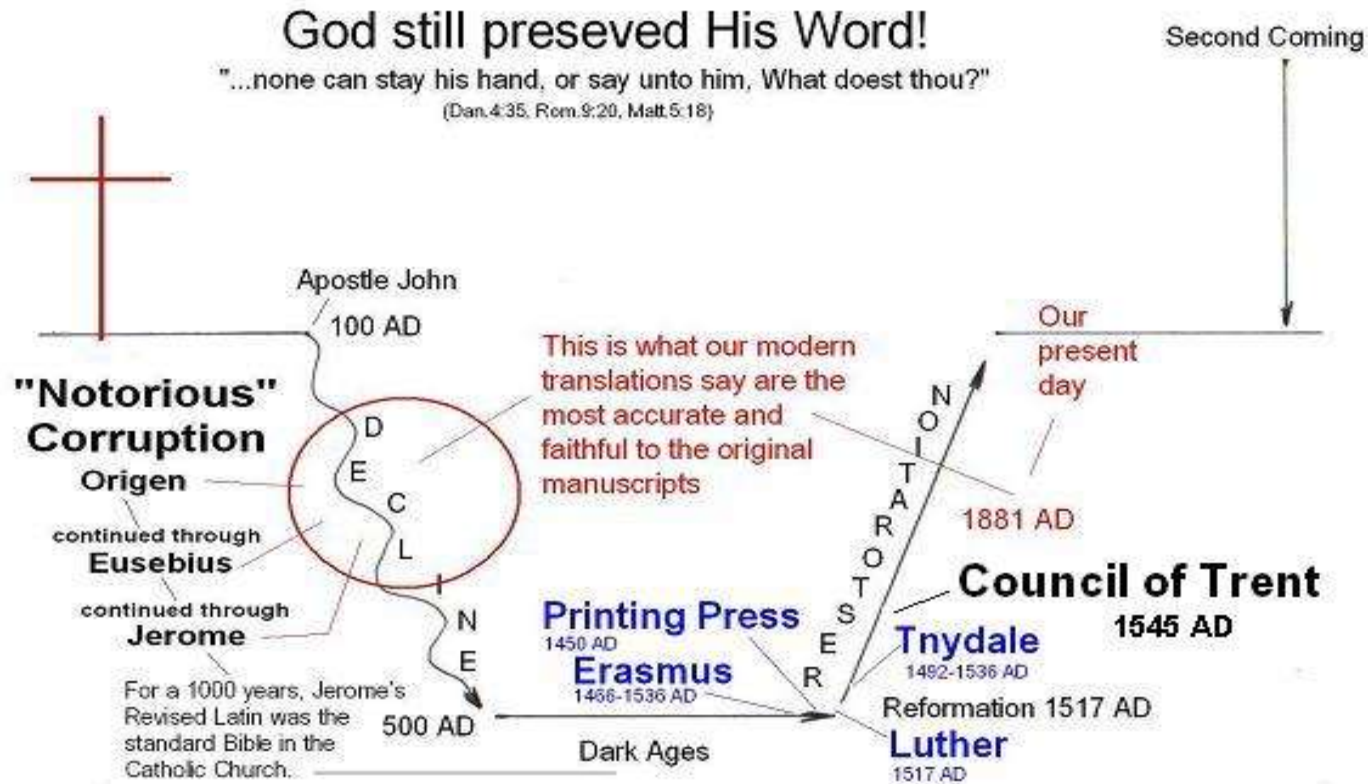
Tyndale was a English Biblical translator, religious reformer, writer and a "ripe Greek scholar" Tyndale met Martin Luther and espoused Reformation principles. (Note: Wycliffe translated from the Revised Latin of Jerome, which is interesting because, God still preserved His Word even amongst the corruption of Origen and Eusebius)

4. Then the Bible was reproduced to the masses

this gave the opportunity for the people to read and interpret the Bible for themselves. (Wycliffe) This is no coincidence, this is the Sovereign, Providential hand of God watching over (hastening) His Word to perform it.

(Jer.1:12)

*"God who brought the New Testament text safely through the ancient and medieval period did not fumble when it came time to transfer this text to the modern printed page." **Now God's Word was in the hands of the people!***



Now comes the Council of Trent (1545 - 1563 AD)

"By this time, (the time of Tyndale) the Catholic Church authorities...saw the Reformation movement spread from one country to another..." **"It was unstoppable!"** Therefore the Roman Catholic Church called for the Council of Trent. (1545-1563 AD)

1. The purpose of this Council of Trent

The Purpose was to Issue decrees **to** correct abuses to **reaffirm ancient doctrines and traditions.** (*i.e.* The doctrines of the spiritual decline of the Church into the "dark ages.")

2. The Council of Trent was to establish the official Catholic Bible

this was the Revised Latin Vulgate of Jerome. (Eusebius, Origen) "In 1546 the Council of Trent decreed that the Vulgate was the exclusive Latin authority for the Bible..." some of the outcome, and much of **the enforcement, of the Council of Trent was in the hands of** the newly established religious order, the Society of Jesus. (**The Jesuits**) Unlike the Benedictine monks or the Franciscan and Dominican friars, the

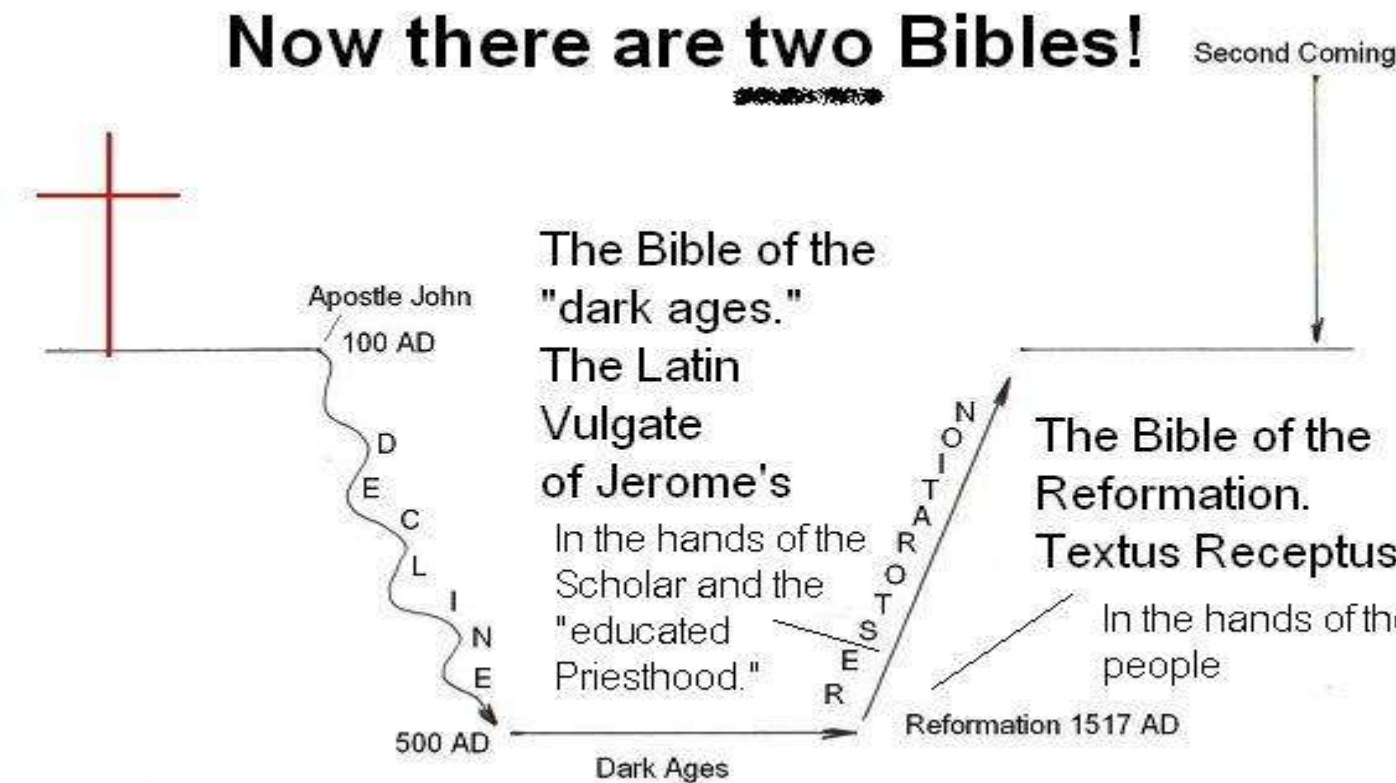
Jesuits were specifically dedicated to the task of reconstructing church life and teaching in the aftermath of the Protestant Reformation.

They thus came to be called **the "shock troops of the Counter-Reformation"** "Their conscientious administrations removed much of the incentive to revolt."

Nevertheless God continued to restore His Church anyway

A Brief summary from 1517 to 1881 AD

The **Word of God** has now been established back into the Greek language, translated into English, and mass produced by way of the printing press to the people, without the corruption of Origen, Eusebius and Jerome.



This continued from the Reformation until the 18th. century.

The Protestants had their Bible and the Catholic's had their Bible.

In 1881 AD a change was about to take place!